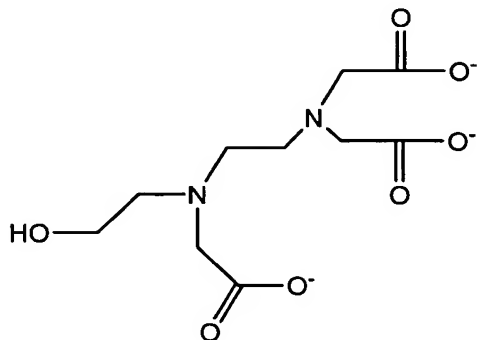


Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An aqueous solution comprising a sodium salt $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$ of the chelating compound of formula I:



wherein $x = 2.1 - 2.7$, $y = 0.9 - 0.3$, and $x + y = 3$.

2. (Original) The aqueous solution according to claim 1 comprising at least 45wt% of the sodium salt $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$ of the chelating compound of formula I wherein $x = 2.1 - 2.7$, $y = 0.9 - 0.3$, and $x + y = 3$.

3. (Previously Presented) A container comprising at least 0.5kg of an aqueous solution according to claim 1.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of an~~ A method for preparing an iron-chelate complex, comprising: contacting the aqueous solution according to claim 1 for making an iron-chelate complex with an iron-containing material.

5. (Original) A method of preparing an aqueous solution comprising at least 45wt% of the sodium salt $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$ of the chelating compound of formula I wherein $x = 2.1 - 2.7$, $y = 0.9 - 0.3$, and $x + y = 3$ from the trisodium salt of N-(2-hydroxyethyl)ethylenediamine-N,N',N'-triacetic acid ($\text{Na}_3\text{-HEDTA}$), comprising the step of electrodialysing at 20°C an aqueous solution containing at least 42 wt% of $\text{Na}_3\text{-HEDTA}$, or at a different temperature

at maximally the concentration whereby the viscosity is the same or lower than the viscosity of 42wt% Na₃-HEDTA solution at 20°C, using a bipolar and a cation membrane, thereby converting the Na₃-HEDTA solution to the solution of the sodium salt $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$ of the chelating compound of formula I wherein $x = 2.1 - 2.7$, $y = 0.9 - 0.3$, and $x + y = 3$.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5 wherein a caustic electrolyte is used.

7. (Previously Presented) A container comprising at least 0.5kg of an aqueous solution according to claim 2.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of an~~ A method for preparing an iron-chelate complex, comprising: contacting the aqueous solution according to claim 2 for making an iron-chelate complex with an iron-containing material.